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# Cancer Rates in Women Under 50 on the Rise — Could Cellphones Play a Role?

*Recent studies show breast cancer is the most common cancer in women under 50, fueling longstanding concerns about a possible link between this cellphones and cancer.*

By Suzanne Burdick, Ph.D.

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Early-onset breast cancer is on the rise in younger women in the U.S., according to two new peer-reviewed studies, leading cancer experts to wonder if cellphone use could be at least partially to blame.

The authors of an Aug. 16 study in JAMA Network Open looked at the health data from 2010 to 2019 of more than half a million people in the U.S. under 50 who reported having some kind of early-onset cancer.

They concluded breast cancer in 2019 had the highest incidence rate, with 12,449 new cases reported that year.

Meanwhile, the authors of a study published Sept. 1 in BMJ Oncology looked at worldwide cancer trends from 1990 to 2019. Breast cancer was responsible for the largest number of cases and associated deaths in younger people, with rates of 13.7 cases and 3.5 deaths per 100,000 people, they said.

Devra Davis, Ph.D., MPH, a toxicologist and epidemiologist who for more than 40 years has studied links between cancer and cellphones in more than 200 peer-reviewed articles, said the found the reports "very troubling."

Davis is president of Environmental Health Trust (EHT), a scientific research and education nonprofit, and founding director of the Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology of the U.S. National Research Council at the National Academy of Sciences.

She told The Defender, "A trend in cancer cannot prove what is causing it. The trend is simply a fact. So the fact is that cancers are increasing among Americans, particularly women, is on the rise."

Indeed, the American Cancer Society in 2022 estimated there were 47,550 cases of breast cancer in U.S. women compared with 50.

"But," Davis added, "there's clear compelling evidence that electromagnetic fields [EMFs] accelerate the growth of breast cancer cells."

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